

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Entry of the attached RCE and return of an initialed copy of the attached PTO 1449 Form, pursuant to MPEP § 609, are requested. The attached RCE is being filed to ensure consideration of the attached reference.

Claims 1-28, 30, 32, 34 and 37-39 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 40-51 have been added. The details of now-canceled claim 16 have been added to claim 29. The details of now-canceled claim 17 have been added to claim 31. Claims 40-44 include the details of now-canceled claims 20, 21, 22, 25 and 26, respectively. Claims 45-51 are similar to claim 29 and claims dependent therefrom. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter on page 5 of the Office Action dated December 17, 2004, is acknowledged, with appreciation. The Examiner is requested to advise the undersigned in the event anything further is required to place these claims in condition for allowance. The Examiner is requested, for example, to see the applicants Request filed January 3, 2005.

The claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is requested.

The Section 112, first paragraph, rejection of Claims 32, 34 and 37 is moot in view of the above.

The Section 102 and Section 103 rejections of Claims 16, 17, 21-24, 26 and 38-39 over Liang (WO 98/21338), is moot in view of the above.

The Section 102 and Section 103 rejections of Claims 16, 17, 20-28 and 38-39 over Depla (WO 99/67285), is moot in view of the above.

The Section 102 and Section 103 rejection of Claims 16, 17, 21-28 and 38-39 over U.S. Patent No. 6,635,257, is moot in view of the above.

The obviousness-type double patenting rejection of Claims 16, 17, 20-26, 38 and 39 over claims 16, 19 and 21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,635,257, is moot in view of the above.

The provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection of Claims 16, 17, 20-26 and 38-39 over claims 15-26 and 41-42 of co-pending application Serial No. 09/995,860, is moot in view of the above.


The claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is requested along with return of an initialed copy of the attached PTO Form 1449.

The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned in the event anything further is required.

MAERTENS et al.
Appl. No. 09/995,791
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Respectfully submitted,

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